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BUSES LEAVE HOBART FOR VALPARAISO

7:05 7:55 8:55 10:55 12:10 1:25 3:55 5:10 5:25 6:00 7:25 9:30 11:55 12:55 1:10

HOBART FIRE DEPARTMENT 1895

FIRST ROW: Fred Rose, Alwin Wild.
SECOND ROW: Frank MacPherson, Fred Werner, Dick Davis, Mike Fleck, Herman Clausen, William Pyatt, George Maybaum, Fred Maybaum, Alfred Johnson.
THIRD ROW: Gust Busse, A. D. Buchanan, Herman Tabbert, William Jahnke, Ed. Batterman, Fred Englebreth, A. J. Swanson, Frank Scharbach.

THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO THE
CITIZENS WHO SERVED THEIR COMMUNITY
IN THE PROMOTION OF ADEQUATE
FIRE PROTECTION.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOBART'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hobart was a thriving community with a well organized town government, a sizable business district and a growing array of residences when the people of Hobart began to realize that spur-of-the-moment bucket brigades were inadequate fire protection. Led by interested citizens and business men, namely W. B. Owen, George Stocker, B. W. Strattan and Seward Lightner, meetings were held during the summer and fall of 1891 to determine a better system of fire protection. While no definite organization was at first accomplished, it was arranged to buy from Valparaiso an old hand pump and hose cart. This proved unsatisfactory and the town purchased a Howe hand pump at a cost of $1000 in October.

With no organized fire department, however, a fire often found everyone at the scene of the disaster and the equipment still in the city barn. To circumvent this Seward Lightner essayed to get together a regular volunteer fire department. He mentioned the project to Charles Borger, then in business on Main street, and Charlie said, "You notify the fellows and we will meet here."

Every fellow contacted responded and an enthusiastic group crowded the harness shop on the evening of November 2, 1891, to band into Hobart's Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Borger was elected president with A. J. Swanson to serve as secretary. The following, with a notation of their age, signed the original roster: C. A. Borger, 31; J. H. Carpenter, 29; F. Zediker, 24; Ed. Odell, 31; Fred Thompson, 28; B. S. Barr, 31; S. A. Smith, 24; August Batterman, 24; Albert Wall, 26; John Hillman, 21; Charles Gruel, 31; William Waldeck, 22; A. J. Swanson, 23; Fred Rose, 25; William Bolt, 32; Ed Batterman, 35; Frank MacPherson, 31; John L. Fiester, 32; John Green, Jr., 32; Jake Fiester, 33; Frank Swanson, 29; Alwin Wild, 29; John Ahrens, 39; James Roper, Jr., 38; Willard Stevens, 22; E. Neumann, 24; John Killigrew; Fred Black; Ronney Shearer; L. Black; George Hadsell; E. Guyer; Pat O'Boyle; Adam Diedrick; C. Corey, and S. Lightner.

These for the most part were young businessmen or living close to the center of town. They paid dues to belong to the company and fines if they missed a fire without good excuse. When a member was forced to resign voluntarily or because he did not comply with the rigid rules of the company he was immediately replaced. The names of Thomas

(Continued on page 5)

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ROYAL BLUE STORE

Hobart, Ind.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOBART'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page 3)

Kelly, Herman Tabbert, Clarence Barnes, Jacob Kramer, H. Stevens, William Jahnke, Dell Brown, Dan Scholler, William Kostbade, Fred Werner, Albert Johnson, Frank Scharbach, William Alexander, Alex Ballantyne and J. H. Conroy were soon added. The group were divided into three companies, Engine, captained by Ed. Batterman; Hook and Ladder, captained by Fred Rose, and the Hose Cart, captained by B. S. Barr.

Fire Alarm

One of the first problems to be solved was a method of signaling the men when fire broke out. At first one person shouted to another up and down the street. In 1894 a huge bell weighing 525 pounds was purchased at a cost of $80 from a concern in Chicago and erected on a standard near the Scholler implement shop which was just across from the Scholler blacksmith shop on Third street. This bell can be seen in the center of the birdseye view of old Hobart shown on another page. This bell served until 1910 when the first steam siren was installed at the city's light and water plant. When the city sold the plant an electric siren was purchased and erected on a tower near the fire station. This is now used to call the volunteers when an alarm is turned in. No system of signals denoting the direction of the fire is used but just a set of fluctuations long enough and loud enough to be heard over the entire area.

Equipment

Various equipment for fire fighting and also uniforms and protective apparell for the firemen was purchased whenever the funds were raised by either the town or the volunteers themselves. Because of the area covered the equipment was drawn by the men when a team was not handy, a second company was organized in "Canada", at Illinois and Georgianna streets. This company was continued until the first motor driven truck was purchased. It was the duty of the first man at the station to commandeer the nearest team or automobile and attach the pumper and hose cart.

Proud indeed was the city of Hobart when the American LaFrance 500 gallon pumper engine was purchased in 1920. This truck is used today as an auxiliary to the American LaFrance 750 gallon pumper and booster tank streamlined truck which the city bought in 1940. An E. & J. resuscitator and inhalator was also added to the equipment in

(Continued on page 22)

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150 EAST THIRD STREET HOBART, IND.

HOSE CART AND HOOK AND LADDER COMPANIES
TAKEN AROUND 1897

Reading from left to right: Ed. Batterman, Fred Englebreth, Howell Stevens. James Ballantyne, George Stocker, Fred Rose, William Jahnke, William Pyatt, Herman Klaussen, Fred Werner, Mike Fleck, Albert Buchanan, Albert Wall, Herman Tabbert, George Maybaum, Alwin Wild, John Green, Fred Maybaum, Frank Scharbach and F. Collins.

The Lions Club of Hobart

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431 MAIN STREET PHONE 148

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BANQUET FEB. 1914

FIRST ROW LEFT: front to back: Fred Scharbach, Dan Kraft, Louis Wischman, Emil Scharbach, Fred Maybaum.

SECOND ROW: Ed. Keilman, George Maybaum, Mike Fleck, Sherman Henderson, Frank Beltzhoover, Frank Johnson.

THIRD ROW: Barney Scharbach, Emil Hasse, Lewis Barnes, Fred Kaska, William Newman, Charlie Kietzman.

FOURTH ROW: George Tabbert, Martin Swanson, Calvin Scholier, Eugene Butler, Jake Ittel.

FIFTH ROW: A. J. Smith, William Scharbach, Alwin Wild, William Jahnke, Fred Rose, Sr., Robert Scholler.

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Hobart Fire Department
On Their
50th Anniversary

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IN MEMORIAM

Past Fire Chief
FRED ROSE, Sr.

IN MEMORY OF PAST FIRE CHIEF FRED ROSE, Sr.

Fred Rose, Sr., was one of the original members of the Hobart Volunteer Fire Department and the captain for the first ten years of the Hook and Ladder company. He served at various times as president of the company. In 1901 he was appointed town fire marshal which position took the name of Chief of the Fire Department, when Hobart became a city, Chief Rose succumbed in March, 1942, after a heart attack.

For many years Chief Rose headed both the police and fire departments of the city of Hobart. In 1936, because of the multiplicity of the duties of both departments, it was deemed wise to separate them, he assumed the direction of the Fire Department.

Always progressive, Chief Rose, proved a competent leader and was able to direct the men through many transitions, from hand drawn equipment to that drawn by horses and later automobiles. In 1920 the first motor driven equipment was purchased, complete with a chemical tank. In 1940 more modern apparatus which included a booster tank pumper was added. All this meant changes in fire fighting methods. Because the work of the fire department had been his prime interest, the new methods that were necessary were easily established by Chief Rose.

At the time of his death, Chief Rose, was Indiana's oldest active fireman. He was a member of the Indiana Association of Fire Chiefs as well as a member of the other firemen's organizations.

The memory of their chief will long linger with the men of Hobart's Volunteer Fire Department.

BIRDS EYE VIEW (Date 1904)
Taken from the old water tower at Hobart's old city Light Plant on New Street.

Villa Shores Realty Co., not inc.

Congratulations to the Fire Department of Hobart on splendid work done

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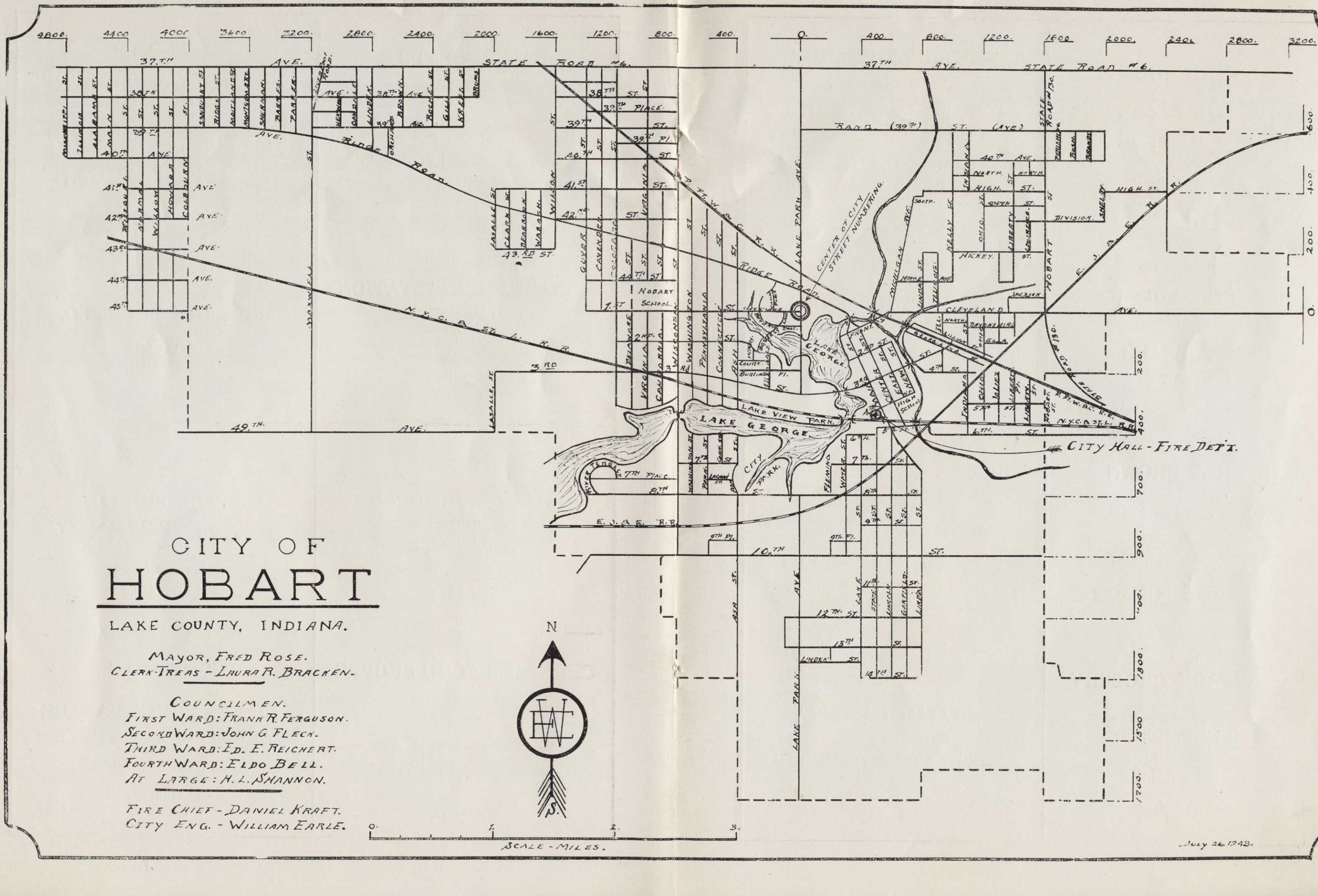
CLERK-TREAS - LAURA R. BRACKEN.

COUNCILMEN.
FIRST WARD: FRANK R. FERGUSON.
SECOND WARD: JOHN G. FLECK.
THIRD WARD: ED. E. REICHERT.
FOURTH WARD: ELDO BELL.
AT LARGE: H. L. SHANNON.

FIRE CHIEF - DANIEL KRAFT.
CITY ENG. - WILLIAM EARLE.



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Councilman-at-Large
HAROLD SHANNON

Councilman
JOHN G. FLECK

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WESTCHESTER FINANCE CO.

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MAYOR FRED ROSE PRAISES HOBART'S FIRE DEPARTMENT

Having been a member of the Hobart Fire Department for twenty years, resigning in 1939 when I took over the duties of Mayor, I know something of the sacrifices and risks taken by them. They have never hesitated to fight fires in all kinds of weather, undertaking the greatest of dangers that they might protect the property of some one else and no sacrifice is too great for them to make for the protection of some one else's interests.

In times like these when so much is happening abroad, when foreign influence is making its self felt, they are called to face and be on the look out for other great dangers, but they are a patriotic group and will accept this extra duty without complaint.

Our fire loss is one of the lowest in the State of Indiana and credit for this must go to our Fire Department and it is an expression of the excellent service rendered by our fireman.

I am proud to be able to say I have been a member of our City Fire Department and I'm happy to have this opportunity as your Mayor to convey my appreciation to them for the public service they have so faithfully rendered.

Signed,
FRED ROSE, Mayor

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HOBART

Fire Chief
DAN KRAFT

This year, 1943, marks the 50th birthday of the founding of the Hobart Volunteer Fire Department. In connection with commemorating this anniversary, you will find the names of the original membership of the organization in another column.

During this period we have had several methods of turning in an alarm and it is well for everyone to know what to do in case they should discover a fire. First, they should determine the type of fire, for instance, a home, garage, automobile, grass, etc.

Next, call the telephone operator, giving this information, and the correct location or address, in a calm, unhurried manner; third, remain at the scene of the fire, doing what you can and having someone on the sidewalk or in the street to direct the firemen.

Often a fire is not visible from the outside or from the street, and the fire truck passes by and then must turn around and return, thus wasting valuable time.

And now, an urgent request to the citizens of Hobart: when the siren sounds, please do not call the operator. She is busy calling the chief and directing the firemen to the fire. Also, do not race down the street either on foot or in your car to the fire.

Give the truck and firemen the right of way. When an alarm is given, your volunteer firemen hurries to it in his own automobile, at his own expense, ready and willing to risk his own life, or ruin his clothes in an effort to save your loved ones and your property.

Remember, your volunteer makes his living elsewhere and is civic-minded enough to give his all for the betterment of our city. He answers calls day or night, in hot or cold or wet or dry weather, and does it cheerfully.

At the present time, the department consists of the chief, two drivers and fifteen volunteers. During the fiscal year of May, 1942 to May, 1943, 85 calls of various descriptions and sizes were answered. The fire loss for 1942 was about 50c for each citizen of Hobart.

The loss for 1943 will be somewhat higher due to several bad fires in outlying districts with no available water. During the last year, we have answered 8 or 10 calls for the use of the inhalator. We were successful in saving the lives of two children and one adult. The other calls were phoned in too late.

We have also been good neighbors and, in the past, have answered calls to East Gary, Wheeler, Deep River, Ainsworth and surrounding territory.

As chief of the Hobart Fire Department and for the members, I wish to thank each and everyone who has helped in any way to make the commemoration a success. In closing, I wish to reprint a poem appearing in our 1943 convention proceedings:

"Who is the man who, in the dead of night,
Jumps out of bed and turns on the light,
Rushes out in the weather, hot or cold,
No matter if he is young or if he is old?

"Who is the one who, while you sleep so sound,
Takes only a minute to get his feet on the ground,
And hurries out at the sound of a gong
To fight smoke and fire all night long??

"Who is the one, when your loved ones are in danger,
Takes so many chances to save a friend or a stranger,
Who is willing to lay down his life for a friend
And gets so very little thanks in the end?

"Who fights fire and smoke with clothes frozen stiff
And rescues flood victims from a leaky old skiff?
Who flushes out the sewer to protect your health,
Always ready to help, if you are poor or have wealth?

"It is the volunteer fireman in your own home town,
Who gives his service without a frown.
That is the man this memorial is for,
He gives his best in peace and in war."

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1½ Miles East of Broadway
Hobart, Indiana

Compliments

GRESSER'S

BARBER SHOP

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOBART'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page 5)

1940, replacing an obsolete pulmotor. Hobart's fire laddies are outfitted in the most modern protective clothing purchased in part by themselves from funds raised mostly by their annual dances. The firemen are also protected by the city with accident insurance while they are on duty.

Water

After a few larger fires the men saw the need of a better water supply than the various back yard pumps offered. Under the direction of the then Fire Marshal J. H. Carpenter, cisterns were installed by the town at strategic points. In 1898 the town built their own water plant and Hobart had its first really adequate protection. A 125 foot brick and metal tower with a 60,000 gallon water capacity, 3 miles of 8, 6 and 4 inch water mains and 30 fire hydrants were a real step forward. The Northern Indiana Public Service Company now holds a franchise to furnish water by electrically operated modern pumping equipment to the city distribution system at a constant pressure. The 150 foot water tank holds 150,000 gallons. There are 97 hydrants situated throughout the city of Hobart, connecting with approx-

(Continued on page 25)

COMPLIMENTS OF

NORTHERN INDIANA *Public Service* COMPANY

S. E. BURNS, Mgr.

HOBART VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 1943

From right to left: Douglas Fleming, Oscar Mason, Harry Bauer, Laverne Mitchell, Roy Kittredge, Russell Kraft, Chris Kramer, Sr., Basil Fleming, Dan Kraft, Louis Kramer, Calvin Scholler, Elmer Kittredge, Donald Ballantyne, Armond Wickman, Nathan Greenspan, Chris Kramer, Jr., Henry Ittel. Another member, Robert Specht, was unable to be present when the picture was taken.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS BOOK TAKEN BY

Ehlen's Hobart Studio

610 EAST THIRD STREET **PHONE 397-J**

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WATCH MAKER

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Ainsworth

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOBART'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page 22)

imately 20 miles of water mains.

Organization

The first "Firemens' Ball" was held in 1893 to celebrate the second anniversary of the company. Since that time the dances have been held, not only as a means of swelling the treasury of the company, but to commemorate the first step in organizing the fire fighters. Each Thanksgiving season the dances have proven to be the social event of the town.

The fire department boys have always been active in all civic affairs. Companies from towns and cities around often came to Hobart and the hose races, hook and ladder drills and of later years, the water fights, have been the highlights on many programs. The Hobart group was a member of the Lake County Firemens' Association when it was first organized in 1905 and a former member of the Hobart's company, Ed. Simon, was the first president. Hobart later joined the Northern Indiana Association of Volunteer Firemen and they now belong in a body to the state organization of regular and volunteer firemen and each year send delegates to the convention. Through these groups many laws

(Continued on page 27)

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O—For Old times, who we hope to see more,
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U—For Unity for which there is a crying need,
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T—For Team-work which the firemen have at heart,
E—Stands for Energy, for which we need rest,
E—For Engine, of which we have the best,
R—Stands for Reunion, of which we all can say;
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THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOBART'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page 25)

advantageous both to the firemen themselves and to the public at large are written and passed.

In the present O. C. D. set up a group of auxiliary firemen has been organized and trained. The entire company continually participate in study and practise periods under the direction of Chief Dan Kraft. The volunteer company is made up of 18 men which include three regular men employed by the city, Chief Kraft and drivers Calvin Scholler and Chris Kramer. Roy Kittredge heads the organization as president and Robert Specht is secretary. Volunteers received compensation up until this year from their own treasury according to the number of fires each attended. A substantial sum was put into the treasury by the city government through taxation each year. Under a recent law passed, the volunteers will now be paid directly by the city an amount determined by the fires attended. The treasury of the company will be used in paying association dues and purchasing equipment in addition to what the city is able to buy.

Cooperation

The men of Hobart, those living nearer town and especiallly

(Continued on page 28)

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PHONE 70 HOBART

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOBART'S VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page 27)

the business men, have always proven themselves civic minded and the roster of membership in the volunteers throughout the years lists many who served their time until pressure of other affairs made their resignation necessary. In appreciation of the protection offered and the resultant lower fire insurance rates citizens have always cooperated in following suggestions made for fire prevention. It is the teamwork of the city government, the citizens of Hobart and the volunteer fire department that builds Hobarts' efficient fire protection.

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THE FIREMEN'S BALL

Fifty years ago Hobart first danced to the tunes of the Boys Band of Hobart to commemorate the organization of the volunteer fire department. While the committee planned the dance for Thanksgiving another organization had made plans for that date earlier so the Firemen's Ball was held a month late. The next year, however, the Thanksgiving season was highlighted by the second annual ball. Each year since the firemen and the townspeople have looked forward to the celebration.

The old Hobart house, which three story edifice can be seen in the background of the birds-eye view of old Hobart, was the scene of many a happy revelry. When the third story ballroom of the Hobart House became unsafe for a large gathering the dances and parties were held in various halls about town. A time or two they were more or less private affairs but for the most part a "Ball" with all the trimmings was held.

The Golden Jubilee Ball will be held at Cressmoor Country Club with the music being furnished by Mickey Isley and his band.

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